

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/081,310

Examiner

Shaima Q. Aminzay

Applicant(s)

PERSHAN, BARRY PAUL

Art Unit

2684

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to July 7, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 22 February 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date ____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-20 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reason for allowance:

The applicant filed amendment on July 7, 2005, the amendments to the independent claims 14 and 18 overcome the prior art rejection, the applicant's argument with respect to claim 1 is convincing, and cancellation of the rejected claims 21-26 puts the application in conditions for allowance.

None of the prior art of the record either singularly or in combination teaches or fairly suggests the following underlined limitations.

"A communications method, comprising: detecting when a call to a telephone number goes unanswered; determining if the unanswered call is from a member of a group identified in a stored set of information associated with the called telephone number; and when it is determined that the calling party is a member of the group identified in said stored set of information: presenting the calling party with a list of other members of said group who have provided telephone

numbers for contact purposes; receiving information from the calling party identifying one or more members of the group who are to be included in a conference call; and initiating a conference call to any group members identified by the received information” as disclosed in claim 1.

“A communications system, comprising: a telephone switch for receiving calls directed to a subscriber telephone number; a peripheral device coupled to said switch including: i. circuitry for accessing a set of information corresponding to the subscriber telephone number, the set of information including a list of telephone numbers corresponding to a group of individuals associated with said subscriber telephone number; ii. circuitry for playing a message to a calling party who made an unanswered call to the subscriber telephone number, the message including the names of the group members who have included contact telephone numbers in said set of information; iii. call conferencing circuitry coupled to said telephone switch for placing calls to members of said group selected by the calling party and for bridging said calls to the call placed by the calling party to the subscriber telephone number when said calls are answered; and a service control point coupled to said telephone switch including control logic for instructing said switch to connect an unanswered to directed to said subscriber telephone number to said peripheral device in response to receiving call completion status information indicating that the call has gone unanswered” as disclosed in claim 14.

“A communications method comprising: storing a set of information including

a list of members of a group associated with a telephone number who may be contacted when a call to said telephone number goes unanswered, the set of information including for each group member who may be contacted, a contact telephone number; detecting, based on the failure to receive an answer to the call, when a call to the telephone number associated with said group goes unanswered; presenting the calling party placing the unanswered call with a list of group members who have contact telephone numbers stored in said set of information; receiving information from the calling party indicating the group member or members who the calling party would like to contact; and initiating a conference call using at least one contact telephone number obtained from the set of stored information corresponding to a group member indicated by the received information" as disclosed in claim 18.

Cited reference Dent (Dent, U. S. Publication number 20030125072) discloses communications system detecting the group member caller telephone number with the Multi-extension functionality a group of two or more mobile terminals in a wireless communication network associated using common group number, the common number with the identification of all mobile terminals in the group are stored in a subscriber database, and when a received call is directed to the common number, the caller can select an option for contacting group members. In related art, Chow (Chow et al. U. S. Patent number 6535730 B1) discloses that a wireless telephone subscriber can use a standard cellular/PCS telephone as a wireless desktop phone including features such as caller ID, call

waiting, call hold, call transfer, call forwarding, voice messaging, and a mobile user can create short message to send to the calling party of an unanswered incoming call by entering a function code.

However, the cited reference Dent in view of Chow do not expressly teach "...when it is determined that the calling party is a member of the group identified in said stored set of information: presenting the calling party with a list of other members of said group who have provided telephone numbers for contact purposes; receiving information from the calling party identifying one or more members of the group who are to be included in a conference call; and initiating a conference call to any group members identified by the received information", "...call conferencing circuitry coupled to said telephone switch for placing calls to members of said group selected by the calling party and for bridging said calls to the call placed by the calling party to the subscriber telephone number when said calls are answered; and a service control point coupled to said telephone switch including control logic for instructing said switch to connect an unanswered to directed to said subscriber telephone number to said peripheral device in response to receiving call completion status information indicating that the call has gone unanswered", and "...detecting, based on the failure to receive an answer to the call, when a call to the telephone number associated with said group goes unanswered; presenting the calling party placing the unanswered call with a list of group members who have contact telephone numbers stored in said set of information; receiving information from the calling party indicating the

group member or members who the calling party would like to contact; and
initiating a conference call using at least one contact telephone number obtained
from the set of stored information corresponding to a group member indicated by
the received information”.

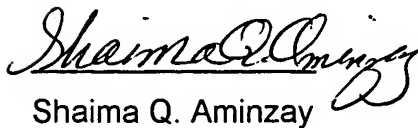
For these reasons, independent claims 1, 14, and 18 are allowed. Claims 2-13 are depend on the independent claims 1, claims 15-17 are depend on the independent claim 14, and claims 19-20 are depend on the independent claim 18. Claims 2-13, 15-17, and 19-20 are allowed under the same reasons set forth in claims 1, 14 and 18.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shaima Q. Aminzay whose telephone number is 571-276-7874. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 AM -5:00 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nay Maung can be reached on 571-272-7882. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Shaima Q. Aminzay
(Examiner)

August 6, 2005


NAY MAUNG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

Nay A. Maung
(SPE)

Art Unit 2684